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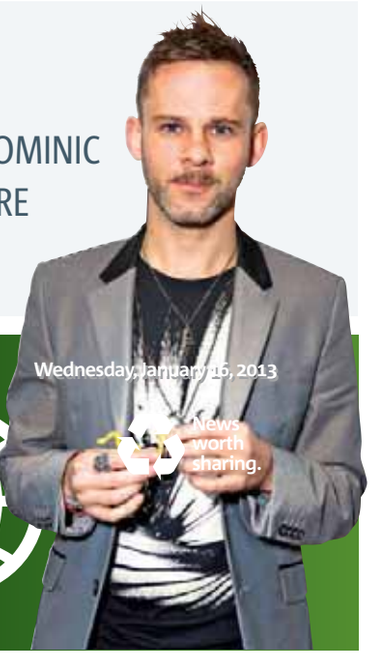
LORD OF THE RINGS STAR DOMINIC MONAGHAN TELLS US WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE PAGE 17



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5 arrested at hearings

Northern Gateway pipeline. Activists were protesting the lack of climate-change consideration

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Five whistle-blowing protesters, including the Canadian activist known as the "rogue page," were arrested on the second day of public hearings in Vancouver on the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline for crashing the room where meetings were being held.

Security whisked the three-member review panel out of the room around 11 a.m. Tuesday after someone opened the door for the protesters, who blew on whistles and wore T-shirts emblazoned with anti-pipeline slogans. They held up a line of yellow caution tape to symbolically cordon off the hearings as a "climate crime scene."

One of the five arrested was Brigette DePape, the "rogue page" who was dismissed from the Canadian Senate page program in 2011 for holding up a sign that read, "Stop Harper!"

"We organized this action because we oppose the process," she said, just before being loaded into the back of a police van.

The proceedings resumed about 20 minutes after the disruption began.

The protesters are all facing trespassing charges, and a sixth woman was questioned on suspicion of having opened the door for them, but was released without charge.

Maryam Adrangi, a spokesperson for the activists, said they did not represent any group but wanted to draw attention to the fact that the hearings are closed to the general public — open only to those signed up to speak — and that the panel will not include climate change as part of its considerations.

A public viewing area with a live feed of statements has been set up at the Westin Bayshore hotel. About 330 speakers pre-registered to address the panel for 10 minutes each in Vancouver between Jan. 14 and Feb. 1.

Correction

Monday's story about the hearings incorrectly identified the public viewing area. The viewing area is at the Westin Bayshore hotel until Jan. 18 and will move to the Renaissance Harbourside from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1.

Brigette DePape, the "rogue page" who was dismissed from the Canadian Senate page program in 2011 for holding up a sign that said "Stop Harper," is handcuffed at the Northern Gateway hearings in Vancouver on Tuesday. KATE WEBB/METRO

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NEWS

Radio. DJ fired over MILF query gets new gig, call from Clark

Asking Premier Christy Clark what it was like to be a MILF on-air landed a DJ a new job and a personal phone call from Clark herself.

DJ Justin Drex Wilcomes was fired from his job at 98.9 Jet FM in Courtenay after he relayed the question from a listener in a December interview, to which the premier responded with a laugh that it was better than being a cougar.

Drex wrote a letter of apology to the premier after the conversation sparked an outcry.

On Monday, Clark called Drex to thank him for the apology and to congratulate him on his new job at Vancouver station 99.3 The Fox FM.

"I received a phone call from BC Premier Christy Clark today, she was far from impressed that I got fired. It was awesome that she called," Drex said on Twitter.

"He emailed a very sincere note of apology to the premier over the holidays," Clark's spokeswoman Ben Chin said in an email. She wanted to "do the right thing and thank him for the note and tell him she's glad he's landed on his feet."

Drex declined to discuss their conversation in detail, but said that people took his comments in December the wrong way.

"I didn't mean to offend her, it was just meant to be lighthearted and a little bit of fun," Drex said.

While he doubts he would have been let go for saying something similar in his native Australia, he doesn't begrudge his previous employer and is glad to continue his career as a "fun, tongue-in-cheek" DJ.

"If I wanted to do a serious, in-depth interview with someone, I'd be a journalist."

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Vancouver's Voodoo Pixie dances in support of the Waldorf Hotel outside Vancouver City Hall, Tuesday. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

City saves Waldorf Hotel ... for now

Unanimous vote. Building won't be demolished for at least 120 days thanks to council, but operators of venue still out

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

City council saved the physical Waldorf Hotel from demolition for at least 120 days, but that won't stop the production team that revived its spirit from calling it quits this weekend.

Council unanimously voted Tuesday to put a temporary protection order on the building after its sale to a condo developer resulted in a public outcry — even though neither the current owner nor purchaser Solterra indicated a desire to tear it down.

"This is an immediate tool we can use in the mix, but obviously it's not going to solve the bigger challenge for the operators and landlords who need to resolve their differences," Mayor Gregor Robertson said, adding he was "hopeful" they would reach a solution.

Yet Thomas Anselmi of Waldorf Productions, the operators behind the East Vancouver cultural hub, was decidedly less positive about his team's future.

"It doesn't really affect what's going to happen with us," he said at a 50-person rally outside city hall that featured burlesque dancers. "(Solterra) has shown itself absolutely uninterested in discussing anything with us."

While he said their departure is "inevitable" at this point, Anselmi would be interested in a last-minute solution that offers more stability than a week-to-week lease. Solterra's spokeswoman did not return a request for comment.

Regardless, the Waldorf shouldn't be replaced with "cookie-cutter development," Anselmi said.

"Of course I think it's worth saving — we've already saved it," Anselmi said. "That building was long neglected and would have been fairly easy to tear down a short time ago."

It must be noted the zoning of the property — situated near a chicken rendering plant and the port — is for heavy industrial use and does not allow for residential development.

Staff will complete a heritage assessment and write a statement of significance for the hotel by May 15.

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Furlong article fair comment: Newspaper

Facing lawsuit. Georgia Straight defends story alleging abuse by ex-Olympic boss at Catholic school

A weekly newspaper that published allegations that former Olympic CEO John Furlong physically and emotionally abused students at a Catholic school in northern British Columbia four decades ago denies the article was defamatory.

The Georgia Straight argued in a statement of defence filed with the court that the story amounted to fair comment and suggested any harm suffered by Furlong was brought on by his own actions.

The newspaper published a story Sept. 27 that quoted eight former students who alleged Furlong, who ran the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics, was physically and verbally abusive while he was a volunteer teacher in northern B.C. in the late 1960s and early 1970s. It also suggested Furlong hid details of his past, particularly the story of his arrival to Canada, in his memoir Patriot Hearts.

Furlong sued, writing in his statement of claim in November that the article was false and accusing reporter Laura Robinson of waging a personal campaign to discredit him.

Vancouver Free Press Publishing Corp., which owns the Straight, publisher Daniel McLeod and editor Charlie Smith filed its response this week, denying the article is defamatory. They also argue the article is protected by a relatively new legal defence known as responsible communication and should be considered fair comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former VANOC CEO John Furlong reads a statement in Vancouver in September. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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Four dead. RCMP assures Surrey residents they're safe after string of shootings since Sunday

The officer in charge of Surrey RCMP is assuring residents the city is safe after four murders rocked the city since Sunday.

Tuesday's shooting appears to be a targeted, gang-related homicide, Sgt. Jennifer Pound, spokeswoman for the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, said in a release.

IHIT identified the man, who was found suffering from gunshot wounds in a laneway at 127 Street and 112B Avenue just before 2 a.m., to be Manjinder "Manny" Hairan, 29.

Police pronounced him dead on the scene.

A second man was also injured and taken to hospital. Police will not be releasing his identity.

Hairan's death comes after three men were killed over the weekend in two separate shootings.

Chief Supt. Bill Fordy, who's in charge of the Surrey RCMP, acknowledged that some residents may be fearful after the string of high-profile murders, but pointed out that the deaths have some relation to the "criminal underworld."

"If you involve yourself in this level of criminal activity, the likelihood of you ending up dead in a ditch or in jail is very high — I would say it is inevitable," he said in a statement.

John Edward McGiveron and Geordie Wesley Carlow, both 33, were gunned down on Sunday in a parkade of an apartment complex in the 9400-block of 128 Street just before midnight.

Both were known to police, but IHIT says their deaths weren't gang-related.

Hours earlier, Manjot Dhillon, 27, was shot in the area of 168th Street and 76th Avenue at around 7 p.m. He died later in hospital.

Police say it was a targeted shooting and Dhillon was known to police.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

$100-million plan

Casino hearing to continue Friday

The public hearing on the proposed South Surrey casino will continue Friday to ensure everyone signed up gets a chance to speak.

After a Monday night meeting that lasted into Tuesday's wee hours, 70 people — 35 pro, 35 against — addressed council on Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Ltd.'s $100-million plan for a casino, hotel, restaurants and other amenities near Highway 99.

More than 100 people still remain on the docket, with 77 in favour of the casino and 39 opposed, according to city spokeswoman Tara Foslien.

Students, farmers and neighbours voiced their concerns at the meeting and asked council not to approve the licence.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Deceased ID'd

Apparent Hope double homicide actually murder-suicide: IHIT

What looked like an apparent double homicide in Hope on Sunday was actually a case of murder-suicide, police say.

Two men were found dead in a rural property on Othello Road in the Fraser Valley community at around 2:30 a.m.

Investigators initially believed it was a double homicide, but further evaluation has confirmed the case to be a murder-suicide.

The deceased men have been identified as Alec Lamb, 26, and Tylor Insley, 29.

Investigators are still determining the details that led to the homicide and the motive for the shooting.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

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Love hurts for scammed B.C. singles

The BBB's Danielle Primrose reveals the bureau's annual Top 10 scams.
PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Top 10 frauds of 2012. Canadians have lost millions to online romance scams: BBB

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Con artists who tug on the heartstrings of singles on online dating sites and lure young people to share their personal information through text messages are among the Better Business Bureau's annual Top 10 scam list.

More than 1,000 victims in Canada have lost a combined $14 million to online romance scams, said BBB president and CEO Danielle Primrose.

"It is truly heartbreaking when the person that you've met online turns out to be a criminal who just wants you to wire money for supposed travel or family emergencies," she said, adding that scammers tend to fall in love with you all too quickly, and have many excuses why they can't meet you in person.

In one case, a person wired $200,000 to a scammer, she said.

The scam of the year touched the BBB itself. Last year, Primrose said millions of people received an official-looking email supposedly from the BBB with the subject line: "Complaint Against Your Business." It instructed recipients to click on a link or open an attachment that downloads a virus.

"The immediate fear is that your company's reputation may be harmed by a complaint and that is why the scam works so well," she said.

Meanwhile, the top youth scam involves text messages informing recipients that they've won a major retailer's gift card. It directs them to a website where they're asked either for personal information or to pay a small application fee to claim their prize.

Other scams of 2012

- **Curbers.** Unlicensed used-car traffickers acquire junk cars, then sell them from parking lots and curbsides. The car could turn out to have a liens against it, the vehicle identification number switched or the odometer rolled.
- **Computer virus scheme.** Scammers call victims to warn that their computer has a virus and they offer to clean it, but they are really trying to gain remote access to the computer and get the person's credit-card information.

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Rescue. Police use chainsaw to free man buried under piles of stuff

Burnaby RCMP used a chainsaw to rescue an elderly man on Monday night after he was trapped under a mountain of household items.

A concerned friend couldn't get hold of the 76-year-old man and called RCMP, Cpl. David Reid said. When officers arrived at the Mandy Avenue home, they found the man under a pile of his belongings.

"He was trapped under a lot of stuff," Reid said on Tuesday. "He couldn't move or get up, so we had to make a forced entry to the house. It became necessary to use a chainsaw to extract him from the material that he was trapped under."

The hoarding was so extensive, he added, that there were "piles literally up to the roof on both floors of the residence."

The man was rushed to Burnaby General Hospital with leg injuries from having had his circulation cut off.

He was unable to reach the phone and respond to those calling him, Reid added, and "had no one gone to his aid, the outcome could have been tragic."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Oregon tragedy

More survivors sue bus company over fatal crash

Another lawsuit has been filed against the Coquitlam tour-bus company involved in a fatal crash in Oregon.

The suit by survivors June Won Kim and his wife, Hee Eun Kim, of B.C., alleges that the bus operated by Mi Joo Travel had inadequate tires, headlights and windshield wipers and the driver was tired and speeding.

They say they suffered brain injuries, a collapsed lung and back and neck injuries in the crash that killed nine people on Dec. 30

Two Korean students from Tacoma, Wash., also filed a lawsuit against the company. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sawmill explosions

Dust handling key to mill safety: Province

Clean up wood dust — that's the central message to sawmills from the B.C. Safety Authority after it investigated a fatal mill blast in northern B.C.

The explosion at Babine Forest Products near Burns Lake killed two workers and was one of two fatal sawmill fires in B.C. last year. The Safety Authority has made nine recommendations, including identifying wood dust hazards and having mills develop better ways to manage the dust.

Babine Forest Products says it's reviewing the report and is committed to make its new sawmill in Burns Lake safe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cargo. Port crucial to Vancouver's economy, CEO tells council

City council may not be thrilled by proposed coal and oil export increases, but the port has to prepare for growth so it doesn't "miss the boat" or become a "local fortress" over the next few decades.

Port Metro Vancouver CEO Robin Silvester cleared up the port's responsibilities and outlined its environmental policies at city council Tuesday.

While the port does not make decisions regarding how much of what is exported, it is responsible for moving the commodities safely, Silvester said.

Every day, $200 million worth of cargo is traded through the port.

It's working to improve truck traffic, use BC Hydro to power docked vessels and minimize the risk of any spill at sea, he said.

Tension remains over scarce industrial land, which the port expects to need over the next decade. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Indirectly employed

80,000

Port directly and indirectly employs 80,000 Lower Mainlanders, Port Metro Vancouver CEO Robin Silvester says.

Fight hospitalizes man

VPD under investigation

The Independent Investigations Office (IIO) has confirmed that they will be looking into an alleged altercation between a 26-year-old man and Vancouver police that has left the man in hospital since December.

On the morning of Dec. 30, the VPD responded to a call about a disturbance at a residence, where they reportedly found the 26-year-old man exhibiting aggressive behaviour. The confrontation allegedly turned violent when the officers attempted to take the man to hospital. The IIO was notified on Dec. 31, and has assigned 11 officers to the case. LIAM BRITTEN/FOR METRO

Save B.C. Film petition calls for more government support

Chris Judson sets up a lighting stand at PS Production Services' Burnaby warehouse on Tuesday. LIAM BRITTEN/FOR METRO

Cutting room floor. 'We're all afraid of ending up in the unemployment line,' says indie filmmaker

LIAM BRITTEN
vancouver@metronews.ca

Chris Judson is a film equipment supplier and independent filmmaker. But lately, jobs like his have been ending up on the cutting room floor.

"We're just not attracting features," he said of the film industry.

He says many of his friends are out of work, leaving town, or even changing careers. He fears for his own job as well.

"I would say I'm very worried. I think that's the overall feeling from everyone in the industry," he said. "We're all afraid of ending up in the unemployment line. If things don't change very soon, it's very likely."

Save B.C. Film, an online petition on Avaaz, expresses the same sentiments, and has amassed more than 15,000 signatures as of Tuesday morning.

Save B.C. Film is a response to the B.C.'s Jobs Plan, and argues the province isn't offering enough tax incentives for the film and television industry. The petition mentions that B.C. has fallen behind Ontario and several U.S. states.

"It tells you a lot about how people are feeling out there," said Marcus Handman, business agent for IATSE 669, the union that represents camera technicians. "In the past couple of years, we have, in competitive terms, been falling behind other jurisdictions."

Handman says that with producers having around a half-dozen options for where to film each project, every incentive helps. He also said that the repeal of the HST has hurt the industry, by raising both costs and uncertainty for producers.

Quoted

"We're struggling to compete, and now it's at a dead crawl."

Chris Judson, film equipment supplier and independent filmmaker

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JESSICA SMITH
Metro in Toronto

Hey students, want some "eloquent phrasing and sophisticated articulate arguments for your critical analysis?" Or "are you tired of wasting time in front of your laptop instead of having fun?" There may be an essay ghostwriter for you.

On Craigslist Toronto, more than 20 ads for essay-writing services were published in one day this week — months from end-of-the-semester crunch time.

One post advertises, "A for your essays." Another advertises a husband-and-wife team, both with master's degrees, who have a combined 35 years of post-secondary essay-writing experience.

One of the ghostwriters — "A for your essays" — agreed to be interviewed. Sam, who declined to give his last name, says he has an MBA.

For as little as...

$10

Some ads on Craigslist charge as little as $10 per page for essays.

"The way I look at it is that I am filling a need in the market. I am writing, and what they do with it is up to themselves," he wrote in an email to Metro.

Most of his clients are repeat customers, and he's taken some through both their undergraduate and MBA degrees, he says.

About three-quarters of his students will hand in his essay verbatim, even though he advises them to make it their own. Sometimes, when they write three essays in a term themselves then hand in one of his as the fourth, the TA will catch on to the difference and they'll get caught, he says. "All students want is an A on the essay, no matter how their previous marks have been."

Sam, like all of the essay writers on Craigslist, says his essays are original, so they won't be flagged as plagiarized by Turnitin.com.

A Metro staffer searches Craigslist ads for essay-writing services. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

At this time of year, he'll get eight to 10 email requests a day, increasing to about 20 in March.

Many of his clients are in business school, since he advertises he has an MBA, but they come from all disciplines. Some of his best clients are older people taking a distance degree online, he says.

"Some students give me their online password, and so I do the online course for them," he says.

Buyer beware

Easy A? No way

As with everything you can buy on Craigslist, it's buyer beware for purchased essays.

Metro ordered a $97, custom-written, 1,000-word essay from AcademicWritingBrokers.com, which advertises on Craigslist Toronto. As promised, it arrived within 24 hours and passed a check on Turnitin.com. The topic — "Is William Lyon Mackenzie King an idealist or opportunist?" — was from Dan Azoulay's 20th-century Canada history class at York University.

"It's not a very good essay," said Azoulay of the finished product. "It just doesn't answer the essay question."

The essay also has grammar issues, rambles without structure and doesn't come up with a thesis on Mackenzie King.

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"As tailors, we love to see somebody coming to us wearing an off-the-rack, ill-fitting suit, which often costs a fortune and then walk out with one of our perfectly fitted, custom made suits. With BMV, our superior quality and fit often costs so much less, yet fits so much better." ~ BMV's Director and Lead-cutter.

When buying off the rack, the only options are what is in front of a person- the shoulders may be too wide or too narrow or the fit may just not be comfortable.

Men who buy off the rack almost always need to have their suits altered, but by visiting a BMV bespoke, they can have a suit made exactly to their specifications and body type.

"We cut from scratch and make full suit according to individual preference," explains William Bal of BMV Bespoke Tailors.

They visit major cities several times a year, taking custom orders, including tailor-made shirts starting at just $59 upto $250 & suit starting at $329 goes upto $3500 depending on different qualities.

BMV's expert tailors, visits major cities across Canada 7 - 8 times a year. To be custom fitted and select a fabric from the thousands offered by BMV, call the number for your city on the dates provided. Ask for Mr. William Bal or BMV Bespoke.

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Montreal Quebec H5B 1E5
Tel.: 514-982-1234

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10222 102 Street,
Edmonton AB T5J 4C5
Tel.: 780-429-3900

Victoria Delta Ocean Pointe & Spa Hotel
7th-8th Feb (8th Feb until 5:00 pm)
45 Songhees Road
Victoria BC V9A 6T3
Tel.: 250-360-2999

Toronto Sheraton Airport Hotel & Conference Centre
20th-22nd Jan (22nd Jan until 6:00 pm)
801 Dixon Road, Toronto,
Ontario M9W 1J5
Tel.: 416-675-6100

Ottawa Delta City Centre
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Ottawa ON K1R 5T9
Tel.: 613-237-3600

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You can only reach us on above hotel numbers during our stay or can call us on +1 778 385 3592 between 17th Jan - 8th Feb. Please ask for BMV Bespoke or Mr. William Bal at the hotel reception.

Quebec eyes guidelines for right to die

Suffering. Under new legislation, assisted suicide would not be considered 'suicide'

Junior minister Veronique Hivon
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Quebec government believes it has found a way to not run afoul of Ottawa after a legal panel recommended that terminally ill patients have the right to die.

Provincial junior health minister Veronique Hivon said Tuesday the panel determined that provinces have the jurisdiction to legislate in matters of health and that the future legislation would clarify how acts to end a life wouldn't be considered suicide.

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal in Canada under the Criminal Code. Julie Di Mambro, a spokeswoman for federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, said Tuesday the government's position remains the same.

"This is a painful and divisive issue that has been thoroughly debated in parliament," she said. "We respect parliament's decision."

Hivon said the Quebec government can now pass a law with strict guidelines that will respect the wishes of the dying to shorten their suffering and provide doctors with a clear legal framework.

Under the recommendations, patients themselves would have to make the request to a doctor on the basis of unbearable physical or psychological suffering. Two physicians would have to approve the written request. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fear of children. Teacher sues school over phobia

A former teacher is suing the U.S. school district where she used to work, saying administrators discriminated against her because she has a rare phobia: A fear of young children.

Maria Waltherr-Willard, 61, had been teaching Spanish and French to teenagers in Ohio since 1976.

Waltherr-Willard was transferred to a school with younger students in 2009. She says the kids there triggered her phobia, forcing her to retire.

Her lawsuit says her fear of young children falls under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and that the district violated it by transferring her and not letting her go back to her former school.

Patrick McGrath, a clinical psychologist in Chicago, said that anyone can be afraid of anything.

"We've had mothers who wouldn't touch their children after they're born," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada vs. U.S. Flu shot helps Americans more

New data suggests that Canadians who got a flu shot this year cut their risk of getting sick enough to require medical care by about half.

That's slightly lower than the estimate that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control released late last week.

In the U.S., the CDC said this year's flu vaccine reduces the risk by 62 per cent overall and by 55 per cent against influenza A viruses.

Dr. Danuta Skowronski, who led the Canadian study, says the cross-border difference relates to the fact that in Canada, most infections this year are caused by the influenza A subtype H3N2.

Skowronski, who is with the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, says while the protection isn't as high as public health would like, it's still significant. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Apartment for sale: Open concept, close to public transit

Emergency services attend the scene after a derailed train crashed into the side of an apartment building in Saltsjobaden, outside Stockholm, Tuesday. A woman in her early 20s allegedly obtained the keys, stole the train and drove it about 1.6 kilometres to the end station on the railway line, where it jumped off the tracks, careened for about 25 metres and crashed into a three-storey building. She was the only one injured in the incident. The motives of the woman, who worked for a company contracted to carry out cleaning for the train operator, were not immediately clear. JONAS EKSTRÖMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drilling test

Curiosity rover to peek inside Mars

NASA says the Curiosity rover should be ready to drill on Mars soon.

It's the most highly anticipated milestone since the nuclear-powered rover landed near the Martian equator five months ago.

Project manager Richard Cook says the team has chosen the test site for Curiosity. The spot contains a diverse sample of rocks that the rover can pick from. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Corruption case

Arrest ordered for Pakistani PM

Pakistan's leaders took a powerful one-two punch Tuesday as the Supreme Court ordered the arrest of the prime minister in a corruption case and a cleric led thousands of protesters in anti-government demonstrations.

Many claim the country's politicians are more interested in corrupt dealings than addressing problems facing citizens.

A government adviser said any attempt to arrest the leader would be unconstitutional since he enjoys immunity from prosecution while in office. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Social media. Facebook unveils 'graph search'

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg introduced a new search feature on Tuesday in the company's first staged event at its Menlo Park, Calif., headquarters since its May initial public offering.

Called "graph search," the new service lets users search their social connections for information about people, interests, photos and places. It'll help users who, for instance, want to scroll through all the photos their friends have taken in Paris or search for the favourite TV shows of all their friends who happen to be doctors.

Until now, Facebook users were unable to search for friends who live in a certain town or like a particular movie. With the new feature, people can search for friends who, say, live in Boston who also like Zero Dark Thirty.

Zuckerberg says the search feature is "privacy aware," which means users can only search for content that has been shared with them.

It will likely take more than a year for it to be available to all of Facebook's more than one billion users. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Competitive move

- Graph search escalates an already fierce duel between Google and Facebook. Although Facebook isn't trying to fetch information across the web like Google does, it's clearly trying to divert traffic and ad spending from its rival.

Montreal

Cirque du soleil calls meeting amid layoff reports

The world-renowned Cirque du soleil will meet with staff on Wednesday amid reports that up to 600 people could be laid off. Renée-Claude Ménard, Cirque's senior director of public relations, would not comment on layoff speculation until the staff meeting. Cirque employs about 5,000 people worldwide. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wal-Mart pledges to hire more than 100K veterans

Patriotic push. Retailer waves U.S. flag as it tries to rebound from recent blows to reputation

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer and the biggest U.S. private employer, with 1.4 million workers, said Tuesday it is rolling out a three-part plan to help jump-start America's sluggish economy.

The plan includes hiring more than 100,000 army veterans in the next five years, spending $50 billion US to buy more American-made merchandise in the next 10 years and helping its part-time workers move into full-time positions sooner.

The move comes as Wal-Mart attempts to rebound from blows to its reputation in recent months from an alleged bribery scandal in Mexico and a deadly fire in November at a Bangladesh factory that supplies clothes to the company. Wal-Mart, which often has been criticized for offering low-paying jobs and not buying more from U.S. manufacturers, said its plan will highlight the career opportunities in the retail industry.

"We've developed a national paralysis that's driven by all of us waiting for someone else to do something," Bill Simon, president and CEO of Wal-Mart's U.S. business, said at an annual retail industry convention in New York. "The beauty of the private sector is that we don't have to win an election, convince Congress or pass a bill to do what we think is right. We can simply move forward, doing what we know is right." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman approaches a Walmart store in Valley Stream, N.Y., in this 2011 photo. The retailer said it plans to hire every U.S. veteran who wants a job and has been honourably discharged in the first 12 months of active duty. GETTY IMAGES FILE

By the numbers

10.8%

The unemployment rate for U.S. veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan stood at 10.8 per cent in December, versus the overall unemployment rate of 7.8 per cent.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.62¢ (-0.03¢)

TSX 12,641.97 (+38.89)

OIL $93.28 US (-86¢)

GOLD $1,683.90 US (+$14.50)

Natural gas: $3.46 US (+8¢)
Dow Jones: 13,534.89 (+27.57)

Music retailing. While HMV's British operations sink, HMV Canada swims

As British music and entertainment retailer HMV tries to salvage any viable parts of its business, the Canadian offshoot of the famous brand says it's far from the financial strife of its former owner.

The two companies parted ways just over a year ago when British-based parent HMV Group PLC sold off the Canadian stores to private equity firm Hilco for $3.2 million. That means while HMV's future in the U.K. looks dim, HMV Canada's domestic stores are still bustling with traffic — and in some cases even growing — as customers snap up movies and music.

"We've gone after a significantly different business model (than the U.K. stores)," said HMV Canada president Nick Williams. The change in direction appears to have saved HMV Canada from the immediate fate of its former owner, which admitted defeat on Tuesday after more than 90 years in business, suspending trading in its shares. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE SWEETNESS OF A GOOD BOOK

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

When you're a reader, there's nothing like finding a new series.

It's even better when, by the time you stumble upon it, there is already a bunch written that you can plow through with relish.

That's what happened with A Song of Ice and Fire (Game of Thrones), George R.R. Martin's wildly fascinating sword-and-sorcery epic. I got to it as Volume 3, A Storm of Swords, was released. As each book is well over 1,000 pages, I had at least three weeks of uninterrupted delight.

But then, I had to wait along with all the other geeks for Martin to continue the agonizingly slow process of churning out Nos. 4 and 5. Still to come, Nos. 6 and 7, and who knows when they'll be ready? Martin has apparently never met a book tour, fantasy conference or editing project he can resist. With any luck, we'll both be around for The End, but the odds are growing increasingly long … or is that short?

Which is why, if you haven't encountered Flavia de Luce until now, this is your lucky day. You have something to do while waiting for Martin's The Winds of Winter.

Flavia de Luce is an 11-year-old girl who lives in a rundown manor house in the English village of Bishop's Lacey in 1950. She solves murders, assisted by a fully stocked chemistry lab left by her uncle, her bicycle Gladys, and an 11-year-old's still-fresh curiosity.

Yeah, I know. But, world of wonders, these books, starting with The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie, currently culminating in Volume 4, I Am Half-Sick of Shadows, are good.

Better than good.

Even crazier? They are written by a 74-year-old Canadian man, Alan Bradley, originally from Cobourg, Ont., who spent 25 years as a director of TV engineering at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. He retired to Kelowna where he expected to go gently, etc., when a cataclysmic 2003 forest fire that nearly engulfed his house caused him to re-examine his scorched priorities and start writing like an 11-year-old girl.

He'd never even been to England until 2007, when he went to pick up the first of Flavia's multitude of awards, but that didn't prevent him from nailing the Agatha Christie English-village murder mystery.

Of course, there aren't a lot of 74-year-old men who can write like an 11-year-old girl, but Bradley seems to have little trouble channelling his inner Flavia, who is by turns funny, solemn, wise, petulant, insightful, kind and, above all, curious. The kind of curious that killed the cat, essential in a murder mystery.

Hermione Granger meets Sherlock Holmes.

The good news gets even better. Unlike George R.R. Martin, Bradley has discipline and reliably finishes one of his novels a year. The next one is due, according to Amazon, in two weeks. Another volume in the series of 10 (say it ain't so!) arrives in early 2014.

Oh, and Hollywood director Sam Mendes has bought the TV rights, so stay tuned …

About the author

He retired to Kelowna where he expected to go gently, etc., when a cataclysmic 2003 forest fire that nearly engulfed his house caused him to re-examine his scorched priorities and start writing like an 11-year-old girl.

Read an excerpt from the book Speaking from Among the Bones at metronews.ca.

Author Alan Bradley HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hands up, who's the cutest?

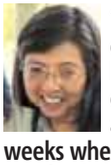
KATHERINE FENG/MINDEN PICTURES/SOLENT

High five!

Newborn panda says hello to world

It appears this baby panda was born for the limelight as he smiles and waves adorably in front of the camera. The 37-day-old cub seemed to enjoy his photo shoot after he was weighed, measured and fed by medics. This charming image was taken at Wolong National Nature Reserve's giant panda conservation centre in Sichuan, China. METRO

Photographer's view



"I think the cubs start looking cute at about four weeks when they are unmistakably baby pandas. At that age, they are roly-poly balls of black and white."

Dr. Katherine Feng, veterinarian/photographer

Fancy dress for good

Staff wear panda costumes

Wolong made news in 2010 after staff decided to don furry panda costumes.

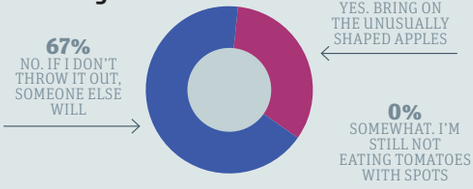
"We came up with the idea because captive pandas are too familiar with people. But by rearing them using panda suits, the baby panda would grow up never seeing any people," researcher Huang Yan said.

This way, Yan hopes, pandas who will return to the wild won't be too dependent on humans. METRO

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Will a new report saying up to half of the world's food is wasted change your consuming habits?


67%
NO. IF I DON'T THROW IT OUT, SOMEONE ELSE WILL
33%
YES. BRING ON THE UNUSUALLY SHAPED APPLES
0%
SOMEWHAT. I'M STILL NOT EATING TOMATOES WITH SPOTS

Twitter

@VanCanucks: Practice is underway. Booth not on the ice this morning. #Canucks http://instagr.am/p/UhCexDNOMl/

@ChrisMJung: While Pavel Bure was flashier, Vancouver center @CliffRonning7 has been my versatile backbone in winning the #StanleyCup on @SEGA NHL '94.

@dcmahiban: If the #Habs buyout Scott Gomez under new rules, could be a temporary fix for #Canucks 2nd line needs (former @surreyeagles)

@shannoncooney1: Going to see the #Canucks first game on Saturday! Can't wait!

@66GDuB: What the he-- did Booth do to arrive at training camp with a strained groin? #Canucks

metro

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SCENE

In Focus

Taking a Stand on drug movies

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

This weekend Arnold Schwarzenegger takes on his first lead role in 10 years. In the Last Stand he's Sheriff Ray Owens, a rootin', tootin' small town lawman who battles a Mexican drug cartel.

It's the first time Arnold has fought drug lords, but Hollywood often looks to the cartels for a supply of bad guys.

As recently as last year Oliver Stone cast Salma Hayek as the ruthless cartel leader in Savages, aided and abetted by Benicio Del Toro as her henchman.

There are also rumours that Scarface, the legendarily violent Al Pacino movie about a Cuban immigrant who takes over the south Florida drug trade, is about to be remade and relocated to the world of Mexican drug cartels.

The Johnny Depp movie Blow was actually renamed Cartel in some markets. Based on the book Blow: How a Small Town Boy Made $100 Million with the Medellín Cocaine Cartel and Lost It All, Depp plays George Jung, the man who launched the American cocaine market in the 1970s.

Finally, Colombiana is another cartel revenge flick. Zoe Saldana is Cataleya Restrepo, who as a 10-year-old saw her parents killed by a Bogota drug lord.

Instead of calling the police she instead becomes an assassin who vows to avenge her family's deaths. Her journey starts with 10 words: "I want to be a killer. Can you help me?"

Mama is an upcoming horror film directed by Andres Muschietti starring Jessica Chastain. HANDOUT

Childhood trauma at root of Del Toro's Mama

Interview. Producer talks about why his films are so dark, and turning a short film into a full-length Hollywood horror

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

When I ask Guillermo Del Toro why his films often feature kids as main characters his answer is upfront, open and a little surprising.

"I had a horrible childhood, emotionally," says the director of The Devil's Backbone and Pan's Labyrinth. "I was not a child who was beaten or locked in a closet, but I really have a very intense relationship with the horror of Catholic guilt and the dogma. My grandmother was like Piper Laurie in Carrie. I was like a chubby version of Carrie. It was very difficult for me to get over that.

"I jokingly say I spent 40 years trying to recuperate from the first eight, but to a degree it is true. I really suffered intensely in the first 10 years of my life. I would cry at the concept of burning in hell, or the concept of purgatory and original sin. Mexican Catholicism is very, very brutal and very, very gory. That all affected me."

Quote

"There is a filmmaker in that short. Very often you see shorts that are glossy but have very little to say."

Guillermo Del Toro
Talking about the film that inspired Mama.

Mama, his latest producorial effort, is a spooky tale of two abandoned girls raised by a supernatural nanny. Del Toro came to the story after seeing a three-minute short film by director Andrés Muschietti.

"The short is brilliant," he says. "Atmospheric and creepy. You can see a storytelling will. You can see a voice. There is a filmmaker in that short.

"Very often you see shorts that are glossy but have very little to say. Or they're really intense and interesting but they are badly done. But this short had the perfect balance of form, function and story."

Muschietti is just the latest director to be discovered and mentored by Del Toro, who himself was given a helping hand by people like James Cameron.

"I've been very, very blessed by finding good people who believed in me at the right time. Obviously I try and pay it forward. Right now I'm 48-years-old and have been doing this for 30-something years, 20 directing. I've been able to produce close to 20 movies between Mexico and America and Spain and I would say in 99 per cent of the cases it has been really, really beautiful. A couple of cases it has been hard or the movie has been disappointing but Mama is one of the good ones I am really proud of."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper

Couple's romance only on screen, says Cooper

Oscar nominees Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence fall for each other in Silver Linings Playbook, but Cooper wants to quash any rumours of the recently single stars dating in real life. "I love her to death. She's amazing, but no," Cooper tells Entertainment Tonight about the prospect of him and Lawrence together. "No, no, no, no, no. Not even close. First of all, I could be her father. No, I'm kidding. But no, not even close." Lawrence, for her part, isn't offended, responding to his statement with, "True. I agree. I concur."

Twitter

@SteveCarell
Apparently, once you have appeared on television, you are qualified to be a fashion designer.

@ParisJackson
i should probably start that biology homework right about now , aye ?

@kirstiealley
I think I accidentally murdered my pet spider...I stepped on a spider in the hallway ...my under the cabinet spider is MIA

@Sethrogen
I have a very shocking admission to make... I've been doping.

The Word

Spears' father arranged split with ex-fiancé?

Britney Spears reportedly had nothing to do with her breakup with ex-fiancé Jason Trawick, as the split was orchestrated by Trawick and Spears' father, Jamie Spears, who still has legal control of her personal life and finances, according to Radar Online.

"It really wasn't Britney's decision to announce the split last week, it was Jamie who made the call," a source says. "Jason wanted out, and in the fragile state that Britney is in, it's not like he could have a rational conversation with her about it, so it was really between him and Jamie. Britney was left out of everything and really didn't even know what was going on."

The biggest surprise, though, is exactly how in the dark Spears apparently is about her personal life.

"Jason and Jamie wanted to make sure that Britney didn't lose it, so they had to water things down for her a bit," the source says. "She still hasn't exactly grasped yet that the relationship is totally over."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Lost and Lord of the Rings star Dominic Monaghan gets wild this year on OLN's new series Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan, which premieres Monday. Metro picked Monaghan's brain on his favourite escapes.

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

5 spots that drive Dominic Monaghan wild

MTKOPONE/FLICKR

The rainforests of Ecuador

"Ecuador is a pretty beautiful part of the world, but I quickly get out of any cities, like Quito and make a full-day journey into the jungle, which is a drive to a boat, then a boat to a car, then a car to another boat and then finally ending up at this place called the Tiputini Research Centre, which is one of the places I based myself out of when I was making Wild Things. It's an extremely remote, extremely isolated research centre in the middle of the rainforest. It doesn't even appear on the map. If you want to experience what it's like to be out in the middle of nowhere surrounded by one of the most wild and unforgiving natural environments in the world, that's a pretty good kicking off place."

New Zealand's south islands

"Some of my happiest times travelling around have been exploring the south islands of New Zealand. New Zealand is obviously a very modernized country but the south islands have some pockets that have kept their natural beauty. My favourite way to experience that is to just rent a car and take a ferry from Picton on the southern point of the north island and get dropped off at the northern point of the south island and then just drive down to Queenstown over the coast for maybe three or four days, stopping in different places. It's a wild and blustery kind of place. You can see a lot of the places where we filmed sequences in Lord of the Rings. New Zealand is called the land of the long white cloud. It's just a really beautiful place to go to."

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

"I really like Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. It's a very, very busy, crazy city with a lot of influences from many parts of the world. The French influence can be felt and Thailand and Cambodia have a bit of an influence here. It's just one of those cities where it gets busier and busier as the night gets on. Once the sun goes down the city really comes to life with a lot of noise and a lot of really interesting food you can buy on the street and friendly people and cool things to check out. There's a lot of people watching, going to squares and seeing some of the craziness."

The islands of Thailand

"Some of the islands up the coast of Thailand are pretty beautiful, like Ko Tao and Ko Samui. I really like going to a place called Krabi. They are pretty experienced with stuff like scuba diving and snorkelling and any kind of water activity you might want to do. There are amazing people in Thailand, really

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Berlin

"I go to Berlin a lot. It's not the most exotic of locations in the world in terms of jungles and crazy animals, but I was born in Berlin. It's a really interesting city, great architecture. It's got nice food. German food is a little heavy, but it's very tasty. They also do a pretty good line in beer."

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Jasper heats up for annual winter festival

Jumping January. Two-week event has mountain town hosting outdoor adventures, contests and a chili cook-off

It's like a big small-town party in the mountains.

Jasper in January is an annual festival scheduled smack-dab in the middle of winter for those brave enough to celebrate the cold instead of running off to the beaches of Mexico.

"We don't all have to hibernate throughout the winter," says Mary Darling, a spokeswoman with Tourism Jasper. "There's still things you can do."

Family fun, evening entertainment and outdoor adventures — many of them free — take place daily over two weeks, bringing the town of 5,000 to nearly double its size.

Picture it: making gooey s'mores over an outdoor fire, strapping on snowshoes surrounded by majestic mountains, throwing snowballs inside a pub while sipping a pint of beer, even sporting a Speedo while leaping into an icy lake.

"It's rejuvenating," says Peter Scott, a local electrician who plans to participate in his fourth Polar Bear Dip this Sunday.

Nestled in the Rocky Mountains, Jasper is about a 3 1/2-hour drive west of Edmonton. To many, it's considered Banff's little sister. But that's not necessarily a bad thing. While Banff is crowded and commercial, Jasper is quiet and laid-back.

History shows Jasper was a place where people lived before it became a travel destination. It was settled as a fur trading post, then designated a national park in 1907.

The addition of hotels, spas and five-star restaurants hasn't dampened its cosy and comfortable feel. And Jasper in January captures that allure, right from ice skating on a frozen pond to noshing on some homemade chili.

In fact, the chili cook-off this Friday night is the only event that has carried on each year since the festival started 24 years ago. Would-be chefs team up and mix pots of chili at the local activity centre, creating more than a dozen flavours that anyone can buy and sample.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- **Jasper in January.** Event runs through Jan. 27.
- **Deals.** Most hotels are offering hot deals during the festival and Marmot Basin is also giving discounts on its ski lift tickets.
- **For more information.** Including a full calendar of events, check out jasperinjanuary.com.

A chili cook-off has been a staple of Jasper in January for 24 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Happy Birthday Tube you, London subway

World's oldest metro. While some may rail on London's people mover, the subterranean train has a storied history

Busy, congested, stressful. This is how the world's first subway system was depicted by London newspapers in 1863. It's a situation that would be familiar to nail-biting passengers of the present as the Tube turned 150 years old Wednesday.

"The constant cry, as the trains arrived, of 'no room,' appeared to have a very depressing effect upon those assembled," The Guardian newspaper reported on the public opening of London's Metropolitan Line on Jan. 10, 1863. The first stretch of rail had opened the day before, on Jan. 9.

The line — the first part of what is now an extensive London transport network that has shaped the British capital and its suburbs — ran 120 trains each way during the day, carrying up to 40,000 excited passengers. Extra steam locomotives and cars were called in to handle the crowds.

Architectural historian David Lawrence said the rapid expansion of the subway network — better known in London as the Tube — had a major impact on the city's design. The Tube helped lure people away from the inner city into new areas where new housing was being built near the stations.

The houses were built in a village style mocked by some historians as already dated.

"They were selling an England which had already passed by that time," said Lawrence, a principal lecturer at Kingston University.

In 1919, the Metropolitan company became directly involved in developing what came to be called "Metro-land" on surplus land. One of the company's promotional posters displayed drab rows of inner city terrace houses and urged people to, "Leave this and move to Edgware."

However, they were also selling the dual benefit of a quiet, unpolluted suburban life paired with rapid access to the cultural and economic benefits of the metropolis, Lawrence said. The pioneering Metropolitan Line sparked a new wave of underground development which today has grown into a 402-kilometre system carrying 1.2 billion passenger journeys each year.

Although Londoners love to complain about its sometimes sketchy performance, the Tube and its related rail lines can be a remarkably efficient way to move vast numbers of people in and out of the city, with roughly 3.5 million journeys completed each day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking aim at the Tube

Like many an innovation, the proposal to build a 4.8 kilometre underground rail line from Paddington Station in central London to Farringdon on the edge of the financial district in the east aroused great skepticism and criticism when it was first proposed. The editorial in The Times of London at the time found the concept repulsive: "A subterranean railway under London was awfully suggestive of dank, noisome tunnels buried many fathoms deep beyond the reach of light or life; passages inhabited by rats, soaked with sewer drippings and poisoned by the escape of gas mains," the newspaper declared.

Metropolitan 1, a restored steam train built in 1898, travels from Kensington Olympia Tube station to Moorgate station in London as part of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the London Underground. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Buttermilk makes move from breakfast table to dinner superstar

First, a buttermilk primer. As its name suggests, buttermilk is the tangy milk-like liquid left behind when cultured cream is churned to make butter. At least that's how they made it in the old days. Today, it's usually commercially produced by adding cultures (think the bacteria that produces yogurt) to low- or no-fat milk.

We've all had buttermilk pancakes and waffles, but most people don't realize just how versatile an ingredient buttermilk is. And it belongs on the dinner table as much as at breakfast.

Ingredients

- 1-lb pork tenderloin
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 tbsp plus 1 tsp Thai red curry paste, divided
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 2 cups panko breadcrumbs
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 tsp cider vinegar
- 4 burger rolls
- Boston or other leafy lettuce
- 1 large tomato, sliced

Let's start with buttermilk's signature tang. It's tangy because it's acidic, and acidic ingredients make for great marinades. Give chicken, pork or turkey a buttermilk bath and you'll get especially tender, flavourful meat. Before you add the meat, just whisk in whatever seasonings you want. That's how it's used in these Buttermilk-Soaked Pork Cutlet Sandwiches.

And that same tang turns out killer mashed potatoes. Use it in place of regular milk, then mash away. Ditto for sweet potatoes. Lastly, next time you're making vinaigrette for your salad or roasted vegetables, add buttermilk for rich, luxurious flavour. Try a blend of olive oil, buttermilk, lemon juice, strawberry jam, salt and black pepper.

Buttermilk-Soaked Pork Cutlet Sandwiches

This recipes serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Cut the tenderloin crosswise into thin rounds, each about 1/4 inch thick. One at a time, set each round between sheets of plastic wrap and pound evenly thin using a meat mallet or rolling pin.

2. In medium bowl, whisk together the buttermilk, 1 tablespoon of the red curry paste and salt. Add the pork and ensure it is evenly covered by the liquid. Refrigerate this for at least 1 hour and up to 8 hours.

3. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 400 F. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray.

4. In a wide, shallow bowl, mix the breadcrumbs and pepper. Remove the pork cutlets from the marinade. Dredge each piece through the breadcrumbs, patting them on as needed to coat evenly. Arrange the pork cutlets on the prepared baking sheet.

5. Bake 10 minutes, or until cooked through.

6. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, whisk together the remaining 1 teaspoon of red curry paste, the mayonnaise and vinegar. Slather a quarter of the mixture over the bottom half of each burger roll. Top with lettuce and tomato, then 1 or 2 pork cutlets. Serve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Brrberry Tea

There is nothing quite like a hot cup of tea to keep the winter blues away.

And when you add three types of alcohol to the mix, you have a whole new type of tea.

- .5 oz brandy
- .5 oz amaretto
- .5 oz triple sec
- Chai tea
- Splash orange juice
- Garnish orange wheel
- Garnish cinnamon stick

Add liquor, liqueurs, juice and tea bag to glass. Add hot water. Garnish with cinnamon stick and stir. Add orange wheel garnish.

PHOTO AND RECIPE COURTESY OF FIRKIN PUBS, FIRKIN-PUBS.COM

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Beyond dashing docs and medical mysteries

New to nursing?

Anticipate everything but a chuckle-worthy, drama-filled day as romanticized on your TV screen

ASHLEIGH TRAHAN
TalentEgg.ca

The ability to smile is one of the keys to a successful nursing career. ISTOCK

Ever wondered what it's actually like to work day in and day out as a nurse? Or if they ever bump into McDreamy?

For those who are on their way to a career in nursing, we've got the skinny on what it's like to be a young nurse from two women who are working hard to keep their communities healthy.

Erin Okanik is a nurse at Kitchener-Waterloo's Grand River Hospital, where she has been working as a registered nurse since graduating from Western University in 2009. As if being a busy full-time emergency room nurse wasn't enough, she is also currently completing her master's degree.

Abigail Keeso graduated from Ryerson University in 2012, and has since been working as a registered nurse in the infectious diseases department at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. When she's not wielding a stethoscope, Abigail writes about health and wellness. You can see what she's up to on Twitter.

What is a typical day like for you?

Okanik: I work in the ER and there is no such thing as a typical day! Depending on which area of the department I am assigned to, I could be helping to set and cast broken bones, or I could be the trauma nurse, working with a team of doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists or paramedics to resuscitate a patient in cardiac arrest.

The ER I work in sees all types of patients — from children to geriatric. The youngest patient I have ever cared for was 45 minutes old and the oldest was 105 years old. You need to be prepared for everything because you can never predict what might come through the doors.

Keeso: Depending on how sick my patients are, I can have anywhere from one to three patients. I go through my patients' care plans to get an understanding of their diagnosis and the plan of care. After I have briefed myself, I then sit down with the nurse from the previous shift so he or she can tell me what has happened over the last 12 hours. Then, I hit the floor running, introducing myself to my patients and their families, building those relationship, checking vital signs, blood work, dressing changes, specimen collection, hanging IV solutions, giving medications, etc.

Throughout the shift I work and consult with a large interdisciplinary team (including medical doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, respiratory therapists, registered dietitians, etc.). While these people are in and out throughout the day, I am with the patients all day, and I am responsible for making sure orders are implemented and advocating for my patients' needs.

Is there anything you wish you had known when you were still a nursing student?

Okanik: That nursing is NOTHING like those medical TV shows that I was always watching (ahem, Grey's Anatomy). Nursing in the real world can be physically and emotionally exhausting, dirty and sometimes tedious. Also, I have yet to meet a doctor who looks like McDreamy!

Keeso: One thing that sticks out is how much I learn every single day on the job. You certainly do not come out of nursing school ready to be an excellent nurse. With advances in medicine, drugs, technology and research, things are constantly changing.

Have you noticed any qualities that make someone a particularly successful nurse?

Okanik: The nurses I look up to at work share one hugely important quality: they are able to stay positive no matter what. The environment I work in is incredibly stressful, and we help patients and families through the worst days of their lives every day at work. We often work short-staffed and miss out on our lunch or dinner breaks. It's very easy to sometimes fall into being negative, but it is so important to be able to maintain a positive outlook during a long day at work. These are the nurses I would want to take care of myself or one of my loved ones.

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Backing up your career in chiropractics

Throw me a bone.
From paperwork to placement, get advice on this pain-relieving pursuit from those who know it best

TUEN MUN ONG
TalentEgg.ca

Each step on your way to becoming a chiropractor has its challenges. I asked three recently graduated chiropractors to share their advice on how to survive and navigate the world of applications, school and work.

The Chiropractors
Dr. Joe Pratile and Dr. Joy Arciaga both graduated from Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) in 2011 and have each been practicing for one-and-a-half years. They currently work at Vita Integrative Health Clinic in Toronto.

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Writing out your school application doesn't have to be a pain in the neck. Just be honest! ISTOCK

Applications and preparation

Writing applications and waiting for answers from schools is always a stressful part of pursuing a career. What is your advice to students writing applications and hoping to get into chiropractic?

Dr. Joy Arciaga: When you're writing your applications, just be honest. If chiropractic is right for you, then you really have no reason to be anything other than honest. It's easy to say the things that the board wants to hear, but at the same time it has to be congruent with what you really believe in.

I completely agree on the waiting part. It is probably the most nerve-wracking part of the application process and it feels like you're waiting forever. There is no concrete advice I can offer here except be positive. You've done all the work. All the T's are crossed and the I's have been dotted. The interview is done. It's out of your hands.

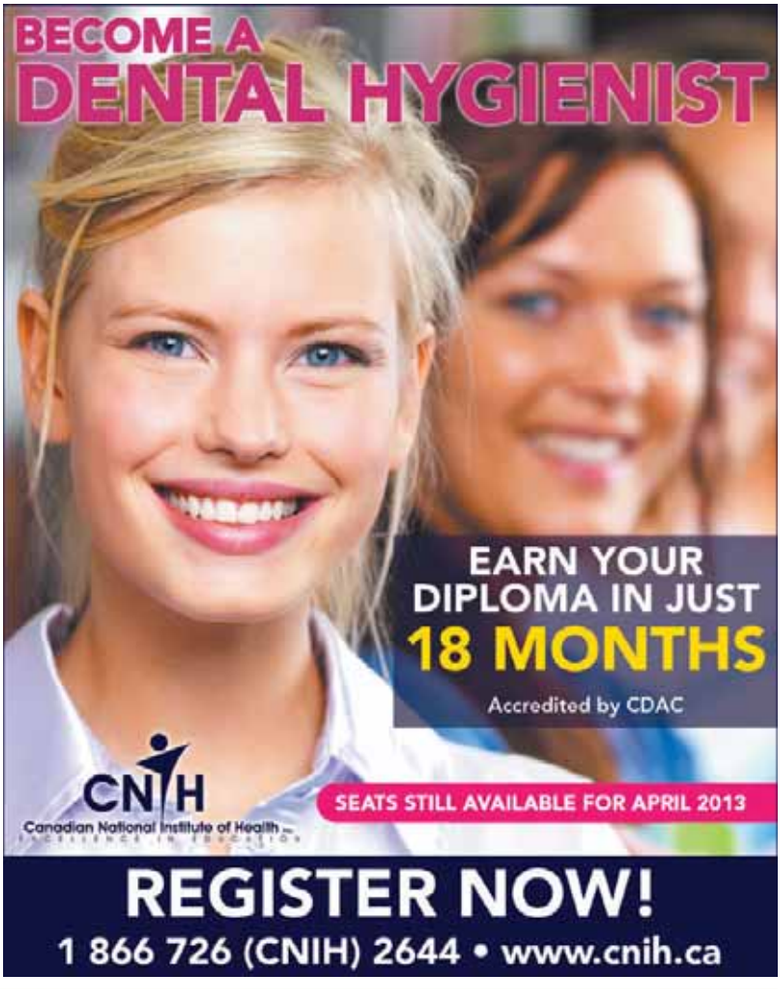
Dr. Joe Pratile: Does it allow you to always be learning? Second, does it allow you to always be dreaming? Third, does it always allow you to always be taking risks to live up to your full potential? Fourth, does it allow you to find a cause higher than yourself and devote yourself to it? These will help you simply and help you build clarity in a complex situation. Fear has no place in a focused mind.

On the pursuit

Any advice on preparing yourself for pursuing chiropractic?

Pratile: Take these three ideas into consideration. First, do you like school? Buckle up, it's four more years. Second, read some chiropractic literature, magazines, and books on the topic to see if the natural healing philosophy and paradigm is right for you. Third, be prepared to study the business side of chiropractic as well, like marketing, advertising and so on.

You will have options coming out, but ultimately if you want to be your own boss, run your own clinic, or at least be a part of one, you will have to know how to streamline office procedures and build a clinic atmosphere. Customer and patient satisfaction and loyalty will always come from the tone you set and the care you take in your office protocols.



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PCTIA

SPORTS 4

Another sidelined on Canucks' 2nd line

NHL. Booth out four to six weeks with strained groin, says coach Vigneault

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

How the Vancouver Canucks will manage without Ryan Kesler in the beginning of the shortened season has been one of two main storylines surrounding the team since the lockout ended.

That plot thickened Tuesday, when head coach Alain Vigneault announced David Booth, who typically occupies the left wing on the Canucks second line with Kesler at centre, has a strained groin and could be out of the lineup for four to six weeks.

Booth suffered the injury during Sunday's fitness testing, underwent an MRI Monday and has missed the first three on-ice sessions of camp.

"His conditioning is not an issue. If anything's an issue, he might even over-train than anything else," Vigneault told reporters at Rogers Arena.

"It's unfortunate. Sometimes stuff happens and that's what happened."

And, just three days into camp, the only member of Vancouver's projected second line was Mason Raymond, who has struggled mightily to regain the form he displayed in 2009-10, when he scored a career-high 25 goals and 53 points.

Raymond, who sustained a vertebrae compression fracture in Game 6 of the 2011 Stanley Cup final and missed the first two months of last season, skated Tuesday on the left wing with Jordan Schroeder and Andrew Ebbett rotating at the centre position and 21-year-old Zack Kassian on the right.

Vigneault didn't count out the possibility of moving Ebbett to the wing.

"The opportunity, the window kind of just got bigger. For now, anyways," the 30-year-old Ebbett said.

"I think we'll probably see a little bit of different combinations (Wednesday night) and maybe the night after. I played left wing most of last year when I was in, so I'm happy on that side, too. Doesn't really matter to me."

However, Vigneault and the Canucks are now facing questions as to where a secondary wave of scoring is going to come from. Raymond, Ebbett and Kassian have combined for 98 goals in 535 career NHL regular-season games.

Schroeder is still waiting for his first taste of real NHL experience.

"I think we've got a strong group of players that can chip in offensively and we've got a strong group of defencemen that can chip in offensively," said Vigneault.

Canucks Chris Higgins, left, and Ryan Kesler, right, celebrate a goal by teammate David Booth last season against the San Jose Sharks. The Canucks announced Tuesday that Booth will be out four to six weeks with a groin strain. RICH LAM/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Intra-squad action ahead

Canucks to get first taste of scrimmage

The first of two scrimmages during the Vancouver Canucks' accelerated training camp is scheduled for Wednesday (7 p.m.) at Rogers Arena.

The scrimmage will be divided into three 10-minute stop-time periods with a shootout at the end. There will also be one-minute penalties.

Thursday's scrimmage, the last of the camp, will follow the same format.

The Canucks open the shortened 48-game regular season on Saturday against the Anaheim Ducks on home ice. CAM TUCKER/METRO

NHL draft rankings

Giants pair crack NHL draft rankings

The Vancouver Giants on Tuesday had two members of their team named to NHL Central Scouting's 2013 midterm rankings of North American players.

Defenceman Mason Geertsen and right winger Jackson Houck, currently the Giants' leading scorer, were placed 55th and 112th respectively in the scouting bureau's rankings for this summer's NHL draft.

The Giants picked up Geertsen, and a first-round pick in this year's bantam draft, in a trade with the Edmonton Oil Kings for David Musil back at the end of October.

Geertsen, who is six-foot-four and weighs 203 pounds, has two goals, nine points and 54 penalty minutes in 30 games with Vancouver.

Houck, who hails from North Vancouver, has 13 goals and 39 points in 44 games.

The Giants, coming off a comeback 4-3 overtime win over the Kelowna Rockets on Saturday, face the Tri-City Americans Wednesday night at the Pacific Coliseum. METRO

NHL draft rankings

Jones ranked No. 1 at midway point

The Central Scouting Bureau released its mid-season rankings Tuesday, with Portland Winterhawks defenceman Seth Jones taking the nod as the top draft-eligible skater from North America. He was closely followed by Halifax Mooseheads forward Nathan MacKinnon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Battle for Cascadia Cup brewing in Northwest

The wait is on for supporters of the Vancouver Whitecaps, Seattle Sounders FC and Portland Timbers in the fight over what they believe is rightful ownership of the Cascadia Cup trademark.

They recently formed the Cascadia Cup Council, which last Tuesday filed a U.S. federal trademark registration application for the Cascadia Cup.

That development came after MLS filed an application in Canada for a trademark to the name Cascadia Cup, a trophy created in 2004 by the supporters of the Whitecaps, Timbers and Sounders — before those clubs gained entry into MLS. Only those three clubs compete for the trophy.

The league said in a statement last week that a registered trademark would put Major League Soccer in a position to protect the brand from exploitation by parties unaffiliated with the league and its supporters.

"However, we understand that some of our fans have concerns about how the trademark will be managed, and we are planning to meet soon with leaders of the three teams' supporters groups to discuss the topic together."

It might take up to half a year before the Cascadia Cup Council hears news on whether it will be awarded a trademark to the trophy.

"We've submitted (our claim) into the system and are told it should take six months, and that's if it goes through unopposed," said Brett Graham, director of external communications for the Whitecaps' supporters group, the Vancouver Southsiders.

"If it's opposed then it could be considerably longer. It depends what Major League Soccer plans to do ... if they feel they still have claim to that mark." CAM TUCKER/METRO

Seattle Sounders fans cheer with the Cascadia Cup before a match against the Timbers last June in Portland. TOM HAUCK/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Kelly Olynyk of the Gonzaga Bulldogs looks to pass against Brad Waldow of the Saint Mary's Gaels on Jan. 10 in Spokane, Wash. Olynyk, from Kamloops, has emerged as Gonzaga's leading scorer. WILLIAM MANCEBO/GETTY IMAGES

Olynyk's year on the bench now paying off

NCAA. Kamloops native is leading scorer for No. 8 Gonzaga

Gonzaga forward Kelly Olynyk figured he wouldn't get much playing time behind Robert Sacre and Elias Harris last season, so he redshirted.

Good move.

The junior from Kamloops has emerged as the leading scorer for No. 8 Gonzaga (16-1, 3-0 West Coast Conference) this season.

"He grew up and his game grew up," coach Mark Few said of Olynyk's redshirt season. "In the past he was a little out of control and made a lot of turnovers. Now, he is in control and his game is more mature."

Olynyk, a seven-footer, is averaging 18 points and six rebounds per game, and he's shooting 66 per cent from the field. He dropped a career-high 33 points on Santa Clara on Jan. 5 and followed that up with 31 against archrival Saint Mary's last Thursday.

He was named the West Coast Conference player of the month for December.

Olynyk is a big reason Gonzaga is off to the best start in its history as a Division I program, as the Zags prepare to play at Portland on Thursday and at No. 13 Butler on Saturday.

All the attention is a big change for a player who before the season might have been considered an afterthought on Gonzaga's deep front line.

"He's improved more than anybody in college basketball," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said after Olynyk made 11 of 19 shots against his team. "We were prepared for him and he still did it to us."

Playing time was hard to come by his first two seasons, and Olynyk averaged only five points and four rebounds as a little-used sophomore.

Then he went to coaches with the idea of redshirting because he didn't figure to displace fellow Canadian Sacre, now with the Los Angeles Lakers, and Harris, one of the team's best players. A season of sitting on the bench opened Olynyk's eyes to the intricacies of the game, Few said.

"He got to see things from a coaching point of view that could be beneficial to all players," Few said.

Asked if he had ever seen a player improve so much during a redshirt year, Few offered a different opinion.

"That's implying he wasn't very good when he got here," Few said. "He's adjusted his game is what he's done. He quit settling for threes and became a very good player.

"He is one guy that is not afraid to make a play. He is multi-talented in regards that he can drive it comfortably. He can pass it, and you guys know that he can shoot it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olynyk's choice

- Olynyk was heavily recruited out of high school by the likes of Syracuse, Providence and North Carolina State.
- He chose Gonzaga in part so he could play closer to home.

NHL

With Pronger out, Flyers hand 'C' to Giroux

The Philadelphia Flyers have named Claude Giroux the 19th captain in team history.

General manager Paul Holmgren made the announcement Tuesday night.

Giroux takes over for defenceman Chris Pronger, who has not played since Nov. 19, 2011, and still suffers from lingering effects of multiple concussions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

"The pressure I feel most times is pressure I put on myself."

Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby.

Crosby insists the headaches and concussion-like symptoms that plagued him over the last two seasons have vanished. They disappeared over the summer, when Crosby began his annual summer ritual back home in Canada of pushing himself beyond his limits in an effort to regain the form that made him the most dominant player on the planet before a pair of hits to the head in January 2011 seemed to put his career in jeopardy.

NFL. Pats seek to improve kickoff coverage, defence late in halves in AFC final

It's a bad time for the New England Patriots to allow points late in halves and long kickoff returns throughout the game.

Fix that fast or the Baltimore Ravens and speedster Jacoby Jones could run them right out of the post-season.

The Patriots advanced to Sunday's AFC championship game with a 41-28 win over the Houston Texans despite giving up kickoff returns of 94 and 69 yards — the longest against them this season. They won even though they allowed 10 points in the last 1:15 of the first half and 15 points in the last 12 minutes of the game.

The Ravens moved on with a 38-35 double-overtime win over the Denver Broncos after Jones caught a 70-yard touchdown pass from Joe Flacco with 31 seconds left in regulation.

That's the same Jones who led the NFL in average kickoff return yardage (30.7) and brought back two of them for touchdowns. Yep, the same guy who drew a defensive pass interference call at the Patriots' seven-yard line in Week 3, setting up Justin Tucker's 27-yard field goal on the final play. Baltimore won that game, 31-30.

New England can't afford another loss.

So coach Bill Belichick is emphasizing, as he does every week, the need to stop kickoff returners and keep teams from scoring with time running out in either half.

"We always think that the end of the half can get a little different than the rest of the game because of situational play," he said Tuesday. "Also, sometimes offensively, teams change their method of attack and what they're doing and how they're doing it and that kind of thing. So you have to adapt and adjust to what they do." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We have to do what we're doing better."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	24	12	.667	—
New York	24	13	.649	1/2
Indiana	24	15	.615	1 1/2
Brooklyn	23	15	.605	2
Chicago	21	15	.583	3
Atlanta	21	16	.568	3 1/2
Boston	20	17	.541	4 1/2
Milwaukee	19	17	.528	5
Philadelphia	16	23	.410	9 1/2
Detroit	14	24	.368	11
Toronto	14	24	.368	11
Orlando	13	24	.351	11 1/2
Charlotte	9	29	.237	16
Cleveland	9	31	.225	17
Washington	7	28	.200	16 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	30	8	.789	—
L.A. Clippers	30	9	.769	1/2
San Antonio	29	11	.725	2
Memphis	24	12	.667	5
Golden State	23	13	.639	6
Denver	24	16	.600	7
Houston	21	18	.538	9 1/2
Portland	20	18	.526	10
Utah	21	19	.525	10
Minnesota	16	19	.457	12 1/2
\L.A. Lakers	16	21	.432	13 1/2
Dallas	16	23	.410	14 1/2
Sacramento	14	24	.368	16
Phoenix	13	27	.325	18
New Orleans	12	26	.316	18

Tuesday's results
Brooklyn 113 Toronto 106
Denver 115 Portland 111 (OT)
Indiana 103 Charlotte 76
L.A. Clippers 117 Houston 109
New Orleans 111 Philadelphia 99
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Boston 100 Charlotte 89
Chicago 97 Atlanta 58
L.A. Clippers 99 Memphis 73
Dallas 113 Minnesota 98
Oklahoma City 102 Phoenix 90
Sacramento 124 Cleveland 118
Utah 104 Miami 97
Washington 120 Orlando 91
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Boston, 8 p.m.
Denver at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Houston at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Portland, 10 p.m.
Washington at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Miami at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

NETS 113, RAPTORS 106

TORONTO (106)
Lowry 5-7 7-7 21, Calderon 6-11 0-0 15, Johnson 6-7 3-6 15, DeRozan 5-15 2-2 12, Davis 6-10 0-0 12, Fields 4-6 0-0 8, Gray 2-5 2-2 6, Acy 2-2 2-2 6, Lucas 2-6 1-1 5, Ross 2-9 0-0 4, Anderson 0-4 2-3 2. Totals 40-82 19-23 106.

BROOKLYN (113)
Lopez 6-12 10-10 22, Johnson 9-18 1-1 21, Williams 6-13 8-8 21, Blatche 7-10 0-0 14, Teletovic 3-8 1-2 10, Watson 2-5 4-4 9, Bogans 3-5 0-0 7, Brooks 3-5 1-3 7, Evans 1-3 0-0 2, Humphries 0-1 0-0 0, Stackhouse 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 40-81 25-28 113.

Toronto	27	23	26	30 —106
Brooklyn	27	27	29	30 —113

3-Point Goals—Toronto 7-13 (Lowry 4-5, Calderon 3-4, Ross 0-3, Anderson 0-1). Brooklyn 8-21 (Teletovic 3-6, Johnson 2-5, Williams 1-5, Bogans 1-3, Watson 1-1, Stackhouse 0-1). **Rebounds**—Toronto 41 (Fields 11, Ross 9, Davis 7, Johnson 6, Calderon 3, DeRozan 2, Gray 2, Lowry 1). Brooklyn 34 (Lopez 9, Evans 7, Johnson 5, Teletovic 4, Blatche 2, Brooks 2, James 1, Humphries 1, Watson 1, Bogans 1, Williams 1). **Assists**—Toronto 21 (Fields 5). Brooklyn 22 (Williams 7). **Total Fouls**—Toronto 21, Brooklyn 21. A—16,236 at New York. T—2:13.

GOLF

PGA FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

Through Jan. 14 (all figures in U.S. dollars)

	Points	Money YTD
1. Russell Henley	500	$1,008,000
2. Dustin Johnson	500	$1,140,000
3. Tim Clark	300	$604,800
4. Steve Stricker	300	$665,000
5. Brandt Snedeker	190	$432,000
6. Matt Kuchar	178	$379,400
7. Charles Howell III	163	$324,800
8. Scott Langley	163	$324,800
9. Keegan Bradley	143	$317,821
10. Tommy Gainey	128	$238,876
11. Bubba Watson	123	$304,000
12. Marc Leishman	120	$218,600
13. Webb Simpson	116	$215,667
14. Scott Piercy	110	$210,000
15. Chris Kirk	100	$204,400
16. Brian Stuard	100	$204,400
17. Rickie Fowler	95	$212,500
18. Carl Pettersson	94	$202,096
19. John Huh	89	$120,808
20. Jeff Overton	85	$173,600
Also		
39. Stephen Ames	**49**	**$60,667**
55. David Hearn	**38**	**$33,208**
59. Brad Fritsch	**33**	**$26,376**

NFL

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Sunday's results
AFC — New England 41 Houston 28
NFC — Atlanta 30 Seattle 28
Saturday's results
AFC — Baltimore 38 Denver 35 (2OT)
NFC — San Francisco 45 Green Bay 31

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday's games — All Times Eastern
NFC — San Francisco at Atlanta, 3 p.m.
AFC — Baltimore at New England, 6:30 p.m.

SUPER BOWL XLVII

Sunday, Feb. 3
At New Orleans, La.
AFC vs. NFC champions, 6 p.m.

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

At Melbourne, Australia
Tuesday's results
Men's Singles — First Round
Milos Raonic (13), Thornhill, Ont., def. Jan Hajek, Czech Rep., 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 7-6 (0).
Jesse Levine, Ottawa, def. Tommy Robredo, Spain, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-4.
Roger Federer (2), Switzerland, def. Benoit Paire, France, 6-2, 6-4, 6-1.
Andy Murray (3), Britain, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3.
Juan Martin del Potro (6), Argentina, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (7), France, def. Michael Llodra, France, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2.
Richard Gasquet (9), France, def. Albert Montanes, Spain, 7-5, 6-2, 6-1.
Marin Cilic (12), Croatia, def. Marinko Matosevic, Australia, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2.
Philipp Kohlschreiber (17), Germany, def. Steve Darcis, Belgium, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.
Women's Singles — First Round
Peng Shuai, China, def. **Rebecca Marino, Vancouver**, 6-3, 6-0.
Victoria Azarenka (1), Belarus, def. Monica Niculescu, Romania, 6-1, 6-4.
Serena Williams (3), U.S., def. Edina Gallovits-Hall, Romania, 6-0, 6-0.
Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, def. Sara Errani (7), Italy, 6-4, 6-4.
Petra Kvitova (8), Czech Rep., def. Francesca Schiavone, Italy, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.
Caroline Wozniacki (10), Denmark, def. Sabine Lisicki, Germany, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.
Kimiko Date-Krumm, Japan, def. Nadia Petrova (12), Russia, 6-2, 6-0.

NBA

Nets grab another win vs. Raptors

Brook Lopez had 22 points and nine rebounds, Joe Johnson and Deron Williams each scored 21 points, and the Brooklyn Nets extended their season-high winning streak to seven games with a 113-106 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night.

The Nets are in the midst of their longest winning streak since running off 14 in a row late in the 2005-06 season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nets centre Brook Lopez shoots over Raptors forward Ed Davis, left, and centre Aaron Gray on Tuesday in Brooklyn. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Clippers rise over Rockets in Houston

Jamal Crawford scored a season-high 30 points, including 12 straight to start the fourth quarter, and the Los Angeles Clippers looked just fine without Chris Paul in a 117-109 win over the struggling Houston Rockets on Tuesday night.

The Clippers won their second game in a row despite missing their star point guard, who is day-to-day with a bruised right kneecap. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2013 Honda Civic is here

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Style

The sedan's adjustments include completely new front and rear bodywork encompassing a more prominent grille, restyled hood and new fog and corner lights. At the opposite end, a reshaped trunk lid and bumper are flanked by a fresh set of taillights. Additionally, all trim levels feature new wheel designs.

A peek at the inner door design

2013 Honda Civic

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact sedan.
- **Engine (hp).** 1.8-litre SOHC I4 (140); 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (201))
- **Transmission.** Five-speed manual; five-speed automatic (opt.)
- **Base price (incl.destination).** $16,900

Engine

Back again is the standard 140-horsepower 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine with the optional 201-horsepower 2.4-litre four-cylinder repeating in the performance-oriented Si. The gas-electric Civic Hybrid's powertrain, which is rated at 110 horsepower, is unaltered.

Fuel economy

Fuel economy stats remain at 7.1 l/100 km in the city and 5.0 on the highway for automatic-transmission models (7.2/5.4 for manual-gearbox Civics and 4.4/4.2 for the fuel-efficient Hybrid). The more potent Si is rated at 10.0 l/100 km in the city and 6.4 highway.

Review. Maker fast, fine tuned new model after unjust 2012 criticism

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Well, there's nothing like a verbal poke in the eye to get your undivided attention.

Not all that long ago, Honda announced the mid-2011 arrival of its 2012-model-year Civic. Fans of the brand seemed pleased, as evidenced by the upwardly pointing sales charts. However, the press and a certain advertising-free consumer magazine gave Honda a rough ride, reporting that the Civic had an uninspired look, average handling and plasticky interior.

Now, most automakers would have simply ignored those comments. Not so, Honda. Whether motivated by its competitive instincts or by a desire to simply do better (or both), it's introducing a heavily revised 2013 Civic sedan well ahead of schedule.

What a difference just a single model year makes.

Structurally, changes have been initiated to improve the Civic's front-end collision protection, especially at each corner. There's high-strength steel in the A-pillars (that flank the windshield) and in the side sills below the doors.

Changes have also been made to the suspension, steering and soundproofing materials to improve ride comfort, reduce cabin noise and create a sportier driving experience.

Honda has addressed concerns regarding the Civic's interior by giving the dashboard a major makeover. There are now fewer visually irritating creases and angles and most plastic surfaces have been covered with richer-looking soft-touch materials.

It could be argued that the newly energized Civic sedan is the car that Honda should have introduced for 2012, but at least the quick response in addressing concerns will impress the legions of Civic supporters and prove the automaker's ability to make rapid change.

The Civic's interior is sleek yet simple.

The interior is appealing and stylish

By comparison

1 Hyundai Elantra
Base price: $17,450

2 Dodge Dart
Base price: $17,600

3 Nissan Sentra
Base price: $16,400

5 DRIVE

Detroit show sets party tone for '13

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The new Maserati Quattroporte has a 191 mph top speed ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Hyundai Genesis also impressed in Detroit

The North American economy is far from full recovery, but you wouldn't guess it over here at the Detroit auto show. It's a party.

Almost every brand is coming off a great 2012 sales year, and most have lots of new products coming on stream in 2013. And while there is always talk about new green advances, we're not getting hit over the head with them. Seems like the automakers know green is a given, and are happy to simultaneously work on and celebrate all the other stuff — the more fun stuff — that continues to forge that emotional connection many of us have with our vehicles.

Power to the People

And one of the most emotional-rich cars on the planet — the Chevrolet Corvette — kicked off the show with the unveiling of its latest iteration. Too many go-faster stuff to go through today, but highlights include 450-horses, a seven-speed manual transmission that automatically matches revs for fast and smooth downshifts, and lots of aluminum and carbon fibre. The styling is muscular and purposeful, and was dictated, as is should be for a sports car of this calibre, by many sessions in the wind tunnel. Another notable performance beast that debuted at Detroit was the all-new Maserati Quattroporte. The outgoing model is incredibly beautiful and they were smart enough to more or less keep the same styling, and just make it bigger, faster and stronger. It's even lighter, to make better use of its awesome V6 and V8 Ferrari-made engines. Top speed on the V8 model is 191 mph.

Small and Spunky

All that power on display at Detroit may have induced Honda CEO and presenter, Takanobu Ito, to remind everyone that Honda still feels that "small cars are the key to the future." He then unveiled the Honda Urban SUV Concept, a small SUV based on the Honda Fit platform. A production version of this concept, and the new-generation Fit coming in 2014, will both be produced at a plant Honda will open soon in Mexico. The world's best selling car, Toyota Corolla, is due soon for its makeover, and at Detroit we got a glimpse of what the next-gen Corolla might look like, in the form of the Corolla Furia concept. It looks pretty sporty and righteous — especially for a Corolla. Toyota has gone on record recently saying they want/need to spice things up a bit, so I guess we shouldn't be surprised.

SUVs Forever

The show also reinforced that we are still clearly in the age of the SUV. There are so many of these things in the market now, and so many more to come. VW badly needs a "midsize" SUV with seven-seat capability. To that end it created the CrossBlue SUV concept, specifically for U.S. and Canada. Seven-seat SUVs have effectively replaced minivans, and CrossBlue retains one of the minivan's best features — individual seats in the rear (keeps siblings apart and happy). CrossBlue also features a diesel-electric plug-in hybrid powertrain. Lincoln also debuted an SUV concept. The Lincoln MKC is based on Ford's ubiquitous C-platfom (think Focus and Escape), and would be, if built, the smallest Lincoln on offer. As we talked about before, luxury makers are no longer afraid to go "small."

More to Come

As the first auto show of 2013, Detroit often sets the mood for the coming automotive year. The mood was definitely up this year, higher than it's been since that kick in the rear called 2008. Party on Garth.

No mountain? No deal. The right tire will have the right symbol

Driving Force.
When buying your vehicle's rubber, look for the mountain and snowflake logo to ensure it's for winter

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

This is the symbol that will give you peace of mind. HANDOUT

When you're buying tires for winter, you need to look for the mountain and snowflake. This little logo, of a snowflake inside a mountain peak, is molded into tires that meet the standard for winter tread.

However, while the logo indicates winter use, it means the tire meets a minimum standard and is not by itself a measure of the tire's quality. It's based on a tread pattern used as the industry standard. The tire must exceed the standard by 10 per cent to qualify for the logo.

"The testing is very easy, in simple terms, because it's basically straight-line performance," says Dino Tenuta, senior technical services manager for Bridgestone Canada. "It doesn't take cornering into account. The logo was initially intended for consumers to identify a winter tire, but it's so easy to achieve that rating. You need to look beyond the mountain/snowflake, and do research on tire performance."

While many people think that winter tires are simply "snow tires," they're more than that. Rubber gets hard when it's cold. The rubber compound in winter tires is formulated to stay flexible in low temperatures, which improves its grip on dry or icy pavement.

Their tread is more aggressive, which helps them bite into snow, but they're also designed to channel away slush and water. If slush builds up on the tire, it dramatically reduces the tire's grip.

On wet pavement, the tread pushes water away so the rubber makes contact with the asphalt below.

If it doesn't, the tire can "float" on the water above the asphalt, a dangerous situation known as hydroplaning.

All-season tires can be used in winter, although they are a compromise. Their rubber compound is designed to stay supple in colder temperatures and firm in hot weather, but their tread isn't as aggressive as that of a winter tire, since it would be too noisy for summer use.

Some tires are called "all-weather," meaning they are all-season tires that have the mountain/snowflake logo.

These can be used all year in jurisdictions where winter tires are mandatory, such as in Quebec, but they are still not as good for cornering or stopping as a dedicated winter tire.

Advice

- **Some tires are marked "Mud & Snow," or M/S.** This simply means it's an all-season tire, and is not specifically rated for winter if it doesn't have the mountain/snowflake logo
- **When to use.** You should use Winter tires any time the temperature drops below 7C, since their grip on cold pavement is better than an all-season tires.

Quoted

"The testing is very easy, in simple terms, because it's basically straight-line performance."

Dino Tenuta, senior technical services manager for Bridgestone Canada
On how winter tires are tested

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After a quick check up, you will vote for this Lincoln

Second Gear.
2007-2010
Lincoln MKX

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

PHOTO: HANDOUT

The MKX was Lincoln's entry to the luxury crossover segment occupied by such brands as BMW, Infiniti, Lexus and Audi when it hit the market for the 2010 model year.

Like most of its competition, it packed V6 power, available all-wheel drive (AWD), heaps of leather and numerous high-end features like a premium audio system by THX, leather seating, Bluetooth, navigation, an oversized sunroof and plenty more.

Common Issues

Reports of bad rear wheel bearings mean that test-drivers should listen for a fairly loud roaring noise from the rear of the vehicle. If present, be sure to have the repair calculated into your purchase price.

The sensors and computer that control the MKX's transmission may also be an issue — so note any clumsy, hard shifting or slipping as you drive. Transmission problems are likely to be electronic and not mechanical in nature — though shoppers are advised to ensure that this is the case. Shoppers should also check the MKX's underside (or have it checked professionally) for signs of leakage from the transmission, differential or PTU — which splits power up between the axles for the AWD system. Numerous owners have noted issues with these components leaking, which could cause problems. Check Engine or other warning lights can illuminate for numerous reasons—many of which are sensor-related. Be sure to note the presence of any such lights in the instrument cluster.

Engine

All models got a six-speed automatic transmission and 3.5 litre, 265-horsepower engine. Front-wheel drive was standard and automatic AWD was optional.

What owners like

Styling, comfort, power and handling are often highly-rated by MKX owners. The THX stereo system, interior roominess, flexibility and seat comfort are highly rated as well.

What owners dislike

Many MKX owners wish for more steering feel, better fuel economy, and stronger feedback through the brake pedal.

Verdict

The MKX's unique style and sporty performance are likely to be big draws to it as a used vehicle — though a full check-over by a mechanic should be considered mandatory.

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Audi RS5 passes with flying colours

Test drive. 2013 model shines during apocalypse-day exam in nasty blizzard

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

December 21, 2012. According to Facebook, the world was about to end in a fiery apocalypse, and I'd soon arrive in hell at 8,500 RPM with a smile on my face. Probably sideways.

I'd just picked up the Audi RS5 for review. It's powered by the same highly-strung V8 as the Audi R8 supercar. You get 450 horsepower, and a paddle-shift transmission that changes gears in fractions of a second. Thanks to Quattro AWD included as standard, you can enjoy all of those horsepower and gears all year round.

The RS5 would let your writer go out with a bang. It's like a supercar wearing touring car clothes. Or an R8 with a back seat. It's a track-tuned weapon, and the highest-performing machine in this model range. It's also a car that virtually stands alone in offering this level of performance and all-climate readiness in a single package.

RS5 Quick summary

Engine. 4.2 litre V8, DOHC, FSI, 450 horsepower

Drivetrain. Quattro AWD

Observed Average Mileage. 15L / 100km

Transmission. 7-speed dual-clutch with launch control

Features. Speed-deployable spoiler, ceramic brakes, Bang and Olufsen Stereo, Bluetooth, navigation, headlamp washers

Price As Tested. $77,000-$93,000

And not that you'd pay a speeding ticket on apocalypse day, but from a glance, RS5 is discreet enough to slip past your local radar-cop unnoticed — so long as you aren't belting screamer V8 noises out of the watermelon-sized exhausts.

Late afternoon. No zombies, earthquakes or fireballs had yet presented themselves. Inch after powdery inch of fluffy snow, however, had. I'd taken apocalypse day off, and apparently (and delightfully), it looked like the snow-plow drivers did, too.

I spent the afternoon exploring the RS5's highway capabilities in deep snow.

Point and shoot performance comes thanks to Quattro's extraction of maximum traction from any surface. No issues getting off the line or around corners, even with the front lip plowing snow. Turn the traction control off, and you can get around in as sideways, snow-flinging a manner as you like. The winter tires float on deep snow more than they dig in (blame their massive width) but you do feel very confident and well backed up.

Mind you, much of the RS5's capabilities are wasted in a snowstorm. So, thankfully, the cabin's leather-lined, aluminum-trimmed, high-tech atmosphere proved a relaxing, laid-back place to wait for Judgment Day.

The sun came back up on December 22, meaning shoppers will still find the RS5 available for all-climate hardcore motoring thrills at dealers from $77,000.

The durable and high performance Audi RS5 tackles the wind and snow. HANDOUT

Boredom fighter

How to enjoy the RS5 when stuck behind a snow plow.

- **Learn a new language.** Set the infotainment system to Spanish, German or Japanese in the settings menu. Then, try your hand at navigating through the various controls for the stereo, Bluetooth or navigation system.
- **Play music with the paddle shifters.** The RS5's paddle-shift gearbox shifts in a blink – making the exhaust note change pitch faster than Niki Minaj's auto-tune machine. Click away at the shift paddles and start experimenting.
- **Make people point at the spoiler.** Repeatedly click the 'deploy rear spoiler' button, and you can make it wave at the passengers in the car behind you.
- **Rediscover your favorite music.** RS5's Bang and Olufsen stereo system is vibrant, clear and extremely crisp. You'll hear details in music you've never heard before—especially if playing back from a CD or DVD.

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You won't lack for chances to move up in the world, but you have got to be quick. If you keep your eyes and ears open over the next two or three days, you will take great strides towards your ultimate goal.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Your philosophy of life will change before the end of the week, giving you a better grasp of what is truly important. Remember: No one changes before they are ready to do so — and you are ready now.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Even if you have done something you should not have done, there is no point feeling guilty about it because you cannot turn back the clock. You should be looking forward to the future. It holds so much promise.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The planets will help you to sweep away the past and create some kind of new beginning between now and the end of the week. If that means getting rid of people who hold you back, so much the better.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Do you change something a bit at a time, or do you throw yourself at it and finish it in one mad dash? That is the question you need to answer today. Make sure you get it right. There is a lot at stake.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Stick to your strengths today and over the next 72 hours. Yes, of course, you should be ambitious but that does not mean you have to start something new. Maybe you should just do what you do already.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone you love and respect will fly off the handle for no good reason today. If you are smart, you will pretend you have not noticed. It's only a minor incident, so why risk making a big issue of it?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Make the most of the Sun's last few days in Capricorn to travel. It does not matter if your journey is short or long, it matters only that you are on the move. What you discover will brighten up your life.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Cash flow problems may be ongoing but between now and the Sun's change of signs at the weekend you will understand what needs to be done to improve things. Next time though, make sure you do it a bit sooner.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
More than anything else, you need to be ruthless with yourself and get rid of all those things that you no longer need. According to the planets, that's rather a lot. You could make a small fortune on eBay.

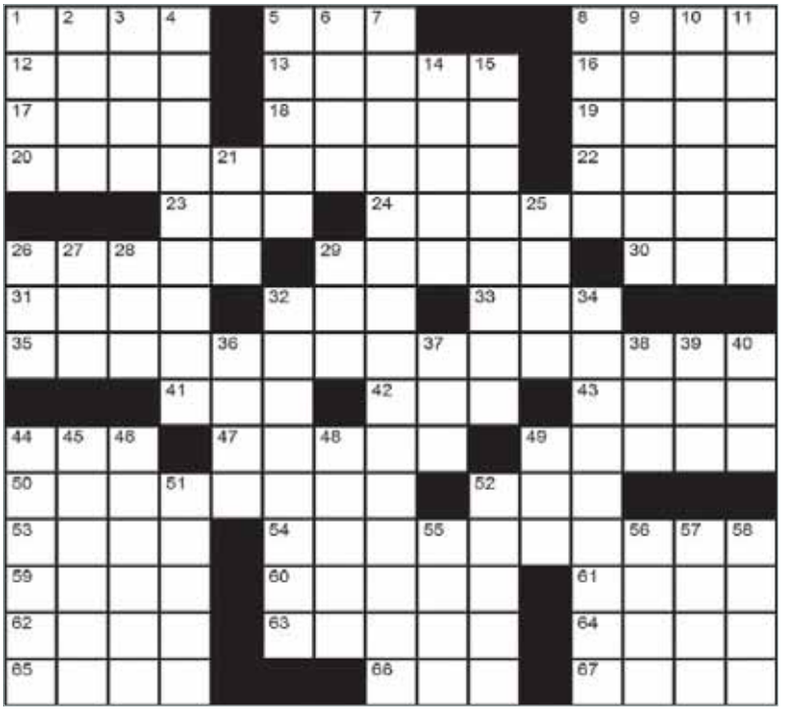
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you are hurting in any way then you must open up and let loved ones know about it. Because you always put on a brave face, they may be completely unaware that you need a shoulder to cry on.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Sometimes you can be too cautious but today you'll be inspired to get up, get out and get busy on the kind of project that can change the world. Do you think that's too ambitious? If anything it's not ambitious enough.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

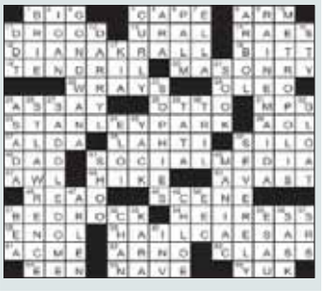
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Comet's follower
5. Joke
8. Poetic contraction
12. "__ __, Brute?" - Caesar in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Act III, Scene 1
13. WWII threat
16. "Able was _ __..." (Palindrome start)
17. Printer's colour
18. Trim
19. Li'l house spot
20. MC Hammer style: 2 wds.
22. Coup d'__
23. Napoleonic†Wars marshal
24. Oust
26. Dance/fitness program
29. "Beau __" (1939)
30. Never: German
31. Without _ __ (Penniless)
32. Li'l office
33. City, informally
35. Currer Bell was her pen name: 2 wds.
41. Mr. Butler, for short
42. Shed tool
43. __ in Canada
44. Some ER cases alas
47. Yellow Fever mosquitoes
49. James Cameron's "The __"
50. 16th Prime Minister: 2 wds.
52. Evita's li'l land
53. 'Cred' suffix
54. Prehistoric link to the New World, Bering __: 2 wds.
59. Belgian songwriter Jacques
60. How fresh fish gets packed: 2 wds.
61. Study
62. Departed
63. "Modern Family" star Ms. Vergara
64. __ a hand
65. Legend Ms. Gardner's
66. Office tel. line
67. Video game maker

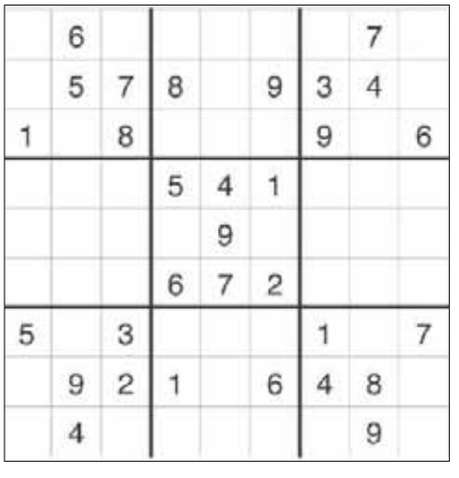
Down
1. __-savvy
2. "Right back __ __!"
3. __-TASS (Russian news agency)
4. Old Town __, NS (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
5. Aquarium fish
6. Spell-starter
7. Have "work" done: 4 wds.
8. Rome's river
9. Galen of President's Choice commercials
10. Menswear designer
11. Glam furniture piece
14. Poker stakes
15. Scientist's glass: 2 wds.
21. Culpa's partner
25. Munich mister
26. Mr. Efron
27. Work the aisles, in slang
28. New Zealand bird
29. __ instinct
32. Aurora __
34. Global series set in a munitions factory: 2 wds.
36. Actress Sharon
37. Greek dawn goddess
38. Fancy 'not'
39. QB's feats
40. poet mr. cummings, and others
44. Ontario's Port Burwell, the new permanent home of Cold War-era sub HMCS __
45. Ex-Degrassi actress Nina who stars on "The Vampire Diaries"
46. Ms. Gomez
48. Liquid-Plumr competitor
49. Coming-in-plane, e.g.
51. Boston's NBA team, for short
52. Skip _ __
55. Gladiator's 609
56. "Groove Is in the Heart" by __-Lite
57. Turf ruler
58. Scandinavian story

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

LOOKING TO MAKE A CAREER CHANGE?
Read metrowork every Monday & Wednesday.

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EMPLOYEE FRIENDS & FAMILY PRICING

0%† FINANCING + UP TO $10,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ ON SELECT MODELS

2013 ELANTRA

GET UP TO

$2,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ **WITH 0%†** FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $15,444♦

ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SONATA

GET UP TO

$3,500 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ **WITH 0%†** FINANCING FOR 48 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $22,064♦

SONATA GL AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

THE MOST FUEL-EFFICIENT FULL-SIZED CAR – NATURAL RESOURCE CANADA'S 2012 ECOENERGY VEHICLE AWARD◊

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

GET UP TO

$1,150 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ **WITH 0%†** FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $27,109♦

SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV (OVER $35K)

5 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto with an annual finance rate of 0%/0%/0% for 24/48/24 months. Bi-weekly payment is $297/$213/$522. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0/$0/$0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Sonata GL Auto for $22,064 (includes $3,500 price adjustment) at 0% per annum equals $213 bi-weekly for 48 months for a total obligation of $22,064. Cash price is $22,064. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Elantra Sedan L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.2L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Sonata GL Auto (HWY 5.6L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM)/2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM, City 10.1L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. †♦Friends & Family prices for models shown (includes $2,000/$3,225/$1,250 in price adjustments): 2013 Elantra Limited/Sonata Limited/Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD is $22,694/$27,339/$39,009. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ♦Friends & Family Selling Prices are calculated against the starting price less all factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments). Friends & Family Selling Prices include Delivery and Destination. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ‡Factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments) are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Factory to Dealer Price adjustments of $2,000/$3,500/$1,150 available on 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto. Factory to dealer price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †♦‡Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ◊Based on Natural Resource Canada's 2012 ecoEnergy award for most fuel efficient full-size car. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

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North Vancouver, 604-985-0055
D#6700

OpenRoad Hyundai
13171 Smallwood Place
Richmond, 604-606-9033
D#28516

Jim Pattison Hyundai Port Coquitlam
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Port Coquitlam, 604-552-1700
D#30242

Langley Hyundai
19459 Langley Bypass
Surrey, 604-539-8549
D#30331

Jim Pattison Hyundai Surrey
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North Surrey, 604-582-8118
D#10977

Murray Hyundai White Rock
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Surrey, 604-538-7022
D#30780

Maple Ridge Hyundai
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Maple Ridge, 604-467-3401
D#7356

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Abbotsford, 604-857-2622
D#9390

Mertin Hyundai
45753 Yale Rd.
Chilliwack, 604-702-1000
D#30337

Destination Hyundai
445 Kingsway
Vancouver, 604-292-8188
D#31042